

IDEA-0042-60
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14 November 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Permission to Proceed with [] U-2 Detachment

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1. On 8 November 1960, following a meeting in the White House on another subject, General Goodpaster advised me that he had discussed with the highest political authority our request for final clearance to proceed with the [] Detachment and that such permission had been granted.

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2. It will be remembered that earlier in the autumn the proposal for this Detachment had been approved and we had been authorized to enter into negotiations with [] but had been instructed to avoid in these conversations fixing any specific date for the movement of aircraft to []. This carried the implication that we were not yet authorized to make a final commitment.

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3. On 3 November, I had a brief meeting with General Goodpaster and said that we had now reached the point where we urgently needed a decision as to whether we should spend up to the [] necessary for rehabilitation of a hangar. I pointed out to him that while we could proceed with this expense within the authority previously granted, I thought it unwise to do so unless it was still our intention to go forward with the project. Not only would we waste the money in so doing, but we would solidify the expectations of the [] and make their reactions more seriously adverse if we later reversed ourselves. General Goodpaster agreed at that time to seek further authority on the matter.

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4. In advising me on 8 November that the authority had been granted, General Goodpaster stated that in seeking authority he had presented the reasoning given in the preceding paragraph and explained that we should not go forward with the next step unless we were

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definitely ready to proceed with the establishment of the unit. The permission was granted on this understanding.

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5. I do not construe the above as permission to undertake any missions from [redacted] over a denied area. It will be recollected that when the Secretary of State reaffirmed his concurrence in this plan he specifically asked that specific missions be cleared with the Department in accordance with the procedure always followed where U-2 overflights were over the Communist Bloc. Moreover, the proposal as presented to the White House has always contained the proviso that such mission by mission clearance be obtained.

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[redacted]
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

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